

REMARKS

The Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for a kind and thorough review of the Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 20. More specifically, claims 1, 2, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,172,601 of Wada et al. ("Wada"); claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and claims 3-9 and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over multiple references. Additionally, claims 8 and 18 were objected to for having typographical errors. These errors have been corrected as shown above. Further, the Applicants' undersigned attorney asserts that the pending Application overcome the Examiner's rejections for the following reasons.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 11 as being indefinite as a portion of the claim was clearly in error and was nonsensical. The Examiner's interpretation and analysis of the claim in the Office Action, however, was correct and this claim has been amended to correct the errors in the claim to read more clearly.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wada. Independent claims 1, 11, and 17 have been amended to more clearly show the novel limitations of the invention disclosed by the Pending Application. Namely, claims 1, 11, and 17 has been amended to show the novel limitations of using a plurality of (e.g.,

at least two) cameras which record images of the surrounding of a the vehicle. It is the images from these cameras which are combined to create a mosaic image of the environment around the vehicle. This amendment readily shows that the invention claimed by the Pending Application is patentably distinct from Wada. Particularly, Wada does not disclose or suggest that a more than one camera should be employed in the vehicle. Additionally, the Examiner asserts that Wada discloses that the images from the camera are used by the processing assembly to create a mosaic image and a display which displays this mosaic image. The Examiner asserts that Wada discloses that a mosaic image is displayed by referring to Wada's stereoscopic image of the environment. The Applicants' undersigned attorney, however, respectfully asserts that stereoscopic images are three-dimensional "3D" images which are not and do not involve the mosaic "tiling" effect described and claimed by the Pending Application. Notably, Wada discloses a single camera whose pictures are analyzed (feature point extraction) to calculate a 3D data section. (See Wada at Abstract and Figure 1). Nowhere in Wada is there any mention of multiple camera whose images are combined to form a mosaic image. In support of this assertion, the Applicants' undersigned attorney refers to The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language which defines mosaic and stereoscopic very differently. Stereoscopic being defined as: "1. Of or pertaining to stereoscopy; especially, three-dimensional. 2. Of or pertaining to a stereoscope." Mosaic being defined as: "... 4. Overlapping photographs, usually aerial, assembled into a composite picture." Stereoscopic images and mosaic images are therefore quite different and do not read upon each other in the manner employed by the Examiner (i.e., interchangeably). This composite or mosaic image alone distinguishes the Pending Application from all of the art of reference, particularly in light of the novel placement of the cameras employed to permit the views/images recorded by adjacent cameras to abut to

create a seamless mosaic image.

Furthermore, Wada specifically teaches away from using multiple cameras to generate images of the area surrounding a vehicle. Wada teaches toward the use of successive photos taken from a single camera to create 3D images and does not/cannot combine multiple camera's images into a composite image as is claimed by the Pending Application. (See Wada at column 1, lines 35 - 46). It would further be an improper combination to use Wada with another reference's imaging system using multiple cameras as Wada teaches away from using more than one camera.

For all of these reasons, the Applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully asserts that Wada does not anticipate any of the claims of the Pending Application.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 3-5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada in view of US Patent Number 6,429,789 of Kiridena et al. ("Kiridena"). As discussed above, however, the independent claims (1, 11, and 17) have been amended to more clearly show that multiple cameras are provided whose images are combined by the video processor/controller assembly to generate and display a mosaic image. The Applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully asserts that none of the references cites disclose or suggest this camera/controller configuration.

Notably, as discussed above, Wada does not disclose and teaches away from this novel arrangement. Similarly, Kiridena merely describes the detection of objects surrounding the vehicle. These objects are shown upon a display as icons and not as a mosaic image. (See Kiridena at Figures 4, 5, and 6). Using iconic representation of objects is vastly different from

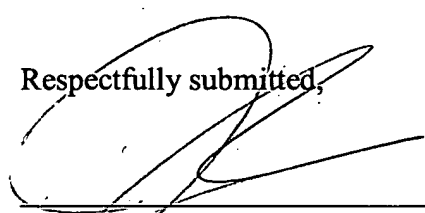
compiling a mosaic view from multiple camera images.

Independent method claim 17 has likewise been amended to more clearly show that the claimed steps involve the formation and display of a seamless mosaic view from the images collected by the plurality of cameras. As discussed above, none of the art of reference discloses or suggests the compilation of a group of recorded images to form a seamless panoramic view of the surrounding area.

The Applicants' undersigned attorney therefore asserts that the above amendments to the pending independent method claims 1, 11, and 17 include new and novel limitations which are not and cannot be disclosed by the prior art of record.

For all of the above stated reasons, the Applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully asserts that the pending Application overcomes the Examiner's rejections and that the pending claims (i.e., claims 1 - 20) are in condition suitable for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 324-7787.

Respectfully submitted,



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"MARKED UP" VERSIONS OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Claim 1 "marked up" version

A vehicle data acquisition and display assembly comprising:

at least [one] two image acquisition [apparatus] apparatuses which [is] are disposed upon a vehicle and which [acquires] acquire images of the environment in which said vehicle resides;

a video processing assembly which is coupled to said at least [one] two image acquisition [apparatus] apparatuses, which receives said acquired images, and which uses said acquired images to create a mosaic image of said environment;

a display which is coupled to said video processing assembly, which is disposed within said vehicle, and which selectively displays at least one portion of said mosaic; and

an image control assembly which selects said at least one portion, thereby allowing said at least one portion of said mosaic to be selectively displayed by said display assembly.

Claim 2 "marked up" version

The vehicle data acquisition and display assembly of claim 1 wherein said at least two image acquisition [apparatus comprises] apparatuses each comprise a camera.

Claim 8 "marked up" version

The vehicle data acquisition and display assembly of claim 7 wherein said lens cleaning assembly further includes a source of a cleansing agent which is selectively and concomitantly mixed with said applied compressed air.

Claim 11 "marked up" version

An assembly for use with a vehicle of the type having a roof, said assembly comprising:

a plurality of camera which are equidistantly disposed [upon] along at least two edges of said roof and which cooperatively provide images of the environment in which said vehicle resides, wherein said equidistant spacing of said cameras is effective to cause each provided image from two spatially adjacent cameras to abut to cooperatively form a panoramic mosaic view;

a display assembly which selectively displays said mosaic view of said cooperatively [cooperative] provided images; and

a controller having a touch sensitive surface upon which an icon is disposed, said controller selecting a first portion of said cooperatively provided images by use of said touch sensitive surface and causing said selected first portion of said cooperatively provided images to be displayed by said display assembly.

Claim 17 "marked up" version

A method for acquiring and selectively displaying images to be viewed within a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of cameras;

disposing said plurality of cameras upon said vehicle, effective to acquire said images;

providing a display;

disposing said display within said vehicle, effective to selectively display a seamless mosaic view from at least a portion of said images;

generating a voice command; and

using said voice command to select at least a portion of said images.

Claim 18 "marked up" version

The method of claim [16] 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing a source of air;

disposing said source of air within said vehicle;

generating a second voice command; and

causing said air to be applied to at least one of said plurality of cameras by use of said generated second voice command.